

Case 2733

Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed designation of *Tachinus punctus* Gravenhorst, 1806 as the type species; proposed conservation of *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829; and proposed precedence of *Mycetoporus* over *Ischnosoma

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to designate *Tachinus punctus* Gravenhorst, 1806 as the type species of *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831 in accordance with universal understanding and usage. The genus, which is widespread in Europe, Siberia and North America, is included in the large family of rove beetles STAPHYLINIDAE. It is proposed that *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 should also be conserved and that *Mycetoporus* should be given precedence over *Ischnosoma*.

1. Stephens (1829a [June], p. 22) introduced the generic name *Ischnosoma* in a list of British insects; there were ten included species, including *Tachinus splendidus* and *T. punctus*, both of Gravenhorst, 1806 (pp. 24 and 27 respectively), and the name is therefore available (Article 12b(5) of the Code). No type species was designated. The name and the list of included species was repeated in Stephens, 1829b ([July], p. 268; see Fletcher in Nye, 1979, p. xv for the dates of publication of Stephens's works). Subsequently, descriptions of the genus and of the included species were published (Stephens, 1832, p. 168) but again no type was designated.

2. Mannerheim (1831, p. 476) established the generic name *Mycetoporus* with five included species, including *Tachinus splendidus* and *T. punctus*, but did not designate a type. The date of Mannerheim's work has been variously cited by subsequent authors as 1830 or 1831, with or without reference to the *Mémoires présentés à l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St Pétersbourg*. Mannerheim's paper was presented to members of the Academy in June 1830 and published in vol. 1 of the *Mémoires* in February 1831. A number of authors have cited the name *Mycetoporus* from an 'extract' from the *Mémoires* with the date 1830. Blackwelder (1952, p. 465), however, recorded the extract as '1831, not 1830'. A review by Audinet-Serville of Mannerheim's work (as an extract from the *Mémoires*) appeared in the *Bulletin des Sciences Naturelles et de Géologie* (vol. 24, pp. 211–236); this included a description of *Mycetoporus* and was also published in February 1831. Both Sherborn (1928, p. 4224) and Neave (1940, p. 234) listed *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim as first published in the *Mémoires* in 1831, which I accept here.

3. Stephens adopted the name *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim in the second edition (1833, col. 95) of his (1829a) list of insects, treating his own name *Ischnosoma* as a junior synonym, and in 1835 (p. 434) he noted that 'the generic name [*Mycetoporus*] employed is that of Mannerheim, which he characterised previously to the appearance of my

Ischnosoma, and therefore to be adopted'. However, *Ischnosoma* Stephens was made available in June 1829 (see para. 1), before the publication of *Mycetoporus*.

4. Gistel (1834, p. 9) established the genus *Leichotes* and included six species, two of which were *T. splendidus* and *T. punctus*. Blackwelder (1952, p. 212) designated *splendidus* Gravenhorst, 1806 as the type species of *Leichotes*, rendering *Leichotes* a junior subjective synonym of *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 and *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831.

5. Westwood ([1838], p. 19; see Direction 63 (June 1957) for the date of publication) designated *T. splendidus* as the type species of *Mycetoporus*; the type species designations in Westwood's *Synopsis of the genera of British insects* were accepted as valid in Opinion 71 (January 1922). Westwood listed *Ischnosoma* Stephens as a synonym of *Mycetoporus*. Between 1838 and 1859 *Mycetoporus* was consistently used as the valid name for the genus in a number of publications, including the important works of Erichson (1839a, p. 411; 1839b, p. 281), Heer (1839, p. 295), Mäklin ([1847]), Redtenbacher (1849, p. 687; 1858, p. 176), Lacordaire (1854, p. 59), Jacquelin du Val (1856, p. 28) and Kraatz (1857, p. 455).

6. Thomson (1859, p. 47) divided *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim into two genera, *Mycetoporus* and *Ischnosoma* Stephens. He designated '*Tachyporus punctus* Gyllenhal, 1810, p. 250' (that is, *Tachinus punctus* Gravenhorst, 1806) as the type species of *Mycetoporus*, and '*Tachyporus splendidus* Gyllenhal, 1810, p. 249' (that is, *Tachinus splendidus* Gravenhorst, 1806) as the type species of *Ischnosoma*, apparently overlooking the earlier designation by Westwood. Thomson's concept of two genera was followed by Sahlberg (1876, pp. 196–203) and Rey (1883, pp. 68, 110). Other authors retained Thomson's type species designations but considered *Ischnosoma* to be a subgenus of *Mycetoporus*: Fowler (1888, p. 212), Ganglbauer (1895, p. 367), Luze (1901, p. 662), Eichelbaum (1909, p. 201) and Reitter (1909, pp. 99, 100). With a few exceptions noted below, all subsequent authors have either placed all species in *Mycetoporus* without recognizing subgenera (Horn, 1877, p. 1200; Hatch, 1957) or have followed Fowler and Ganglbauer and treated *Ischnosoma* as a subgenus of *Mycetoporus*.

7. Gozis (1886) cited *Ischnosoma* as a synonym of *Mycetoporus* and designated *Mycetoporus brunneus* (Marsham, 1802, p. 524) as the type species of both genera; *Mycetoporus brunneus* was described by Paykull (1789) as *Staphylinus brunneus*. These designations are invalid because *Staphylinus brunneus* was not an originally included species of *Mycetoporus* and also because of the earlier designations of Westwood ([1838]) and Thomson (1859). Gozis (1886, p. 14) proposed the new name *Myteroxis* for the genus *Ischnosoma* as used by Thomson and designated *Tachinus splendidus* Gravenhorst, 1806 as its type species. *Myteroxis* is thus a junior objective synonym of *Mycetoporus*.

8. Strand (1935) argued that *Ischnosoma* Stephens became available only in 1832, not 1829. He further argued that *Ischnosoma* Stephens was a junior homonym of *Ischnosoma* Spix & Agassiz, 1829 (Osteichthyes). Based on these interpretations, Strand (1935, p. 293) proposed the new name *Ischnosomata* to replace the seemingly junior homonym. The fish name *Ischnosoma* is available (Article 11e) from Cuvier (1829 [before 31 March], p. 328), where '*Ischnosoma bicirrhosum*, Spix, xxv' was published in the synonymy of Cuvier's new species *Osteoglossum vandellii*. The name *Ischnosoma* appeared on Spix's plate (1829, pl. 25); Spix & Agassiz's work was published between 22 May and 4 July 1829 (see Kottelat, 1988, pp. 71, 72, 77 and BZN 46:

130 for the dates of publication). Agassiz (1829, p. 47) treated *Ischnosoma* as a junior synonym of *Osteoglossum*. Both names *Ischnosoma* and *Osteoglossum* were retained by Valenciennes (1847, pp. 287, 307), but *Ischnosoma* was later synonymized with *Osteoglossum* (Günther, 1868, p. 278). *Ischnosoma* has not been used since as a valid name in ichthyology. As stated in para. 1, the beetle name *Ischnosoma* Stephens was apparently published in June 1829. Since the date of the fish name is probably earlier I propose that all uses of *Ischnosoma* before Stephens (1829) should be suppressed.

9. Tottenham (1939) assumed that Westwood ([1838]) had proposed *T. splendidus* as the type species for both *Mycetoporus* and *Ischnosoma*, rendering the two names objective synonyms. He recognized that Thomson's (1859) designation of *T. punctus* as the type species of *Mycetoporus* was invalid. He proposed (1939, p. 226) the new name *Schinomosa* for the genus referred to by Thomson as *Mycetoporus* and designated *Tachyporus punctus* (Gyllenhal, 1810; that is, *Tachinus punctus* Gravenhorst, 1806) as its type species. This name has not been used except in later papers by Tottenham (1949, pp. 378, 423; 1956, p. 231), and Blackwelder (1952, p. 252) considered it to be a synonym of *Mycetoporus*.

10. Blackwelder (1952, p. 252), in his important work on the generic names of the family STAPHYLINIDAE, used the name *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831 for the genus, but did not recognize subgenera. He (1952, p. 204) followed Strand (1935) in assuming that the name *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 was a junior homonym of *Ischnosoma* Spix, 1829.

11. A strict interpretation of the Code would necessitate using *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 (type species *Tachinus splendidus* Gravenhorst, 1806 by Thomson's 1859 designation) as the name for the nominal genus, with *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831 treated as a junior objective synonym. The name *Schinomosa* Tottenham, 1939 (type species *Tachinus punctus* Gravenhorst, 1806; see para. 9) would replace the long established name *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim.

12. It is highly desirable to conserve the understood sense of both *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 and *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831, as used in the taxonomic literature for over 130 years since Thomson (1859) adopted both names as valid. Over 150 species are placed in *Mycetoporus*, distributed primarily in the north temperate zone, but occurring in all major faunal regions except South America. *Ischnosoma* has been considered a subgenus of *Mycetoporus* by most modern authors (Lohse, 1964, p. 223; Tichomirova, 1973, pp. 147–148), but a revision of the North American species of the group (Campbell, in preparation) has shown that the two groups should be independently recognized at the generic level.

13. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

- (a) to suppress the generic name *Ischnosoma* Cuvier, 1829, and all uses of the name *Ischnosoma* prior to *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (b) to set aside all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831 prior to the designation by Thomson (1859) of *Tachinus punctus* Gravenhorst, 1806;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Thomson (1859) *Tachinus punctus* Gravenhorst,

- 1806, as ruled in (1)(b) above, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (b) *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Thomson (1859) *Tachinus splendidus* Gravenhorst, 1806, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *punctus* Gravenhorst, 1806, as published in the binomen *Tachinus punctus* (specific name of the type species of *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831);
 - (b) *splendidus* Gravenhorst, 1806, as published in the binomen *Tachinus splendidus* (specific name of the type species of *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829);
 - (4) to place the following names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Ischnosoma* Cuvier, 1829 (Osteichthyes), as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *Leichotes* Gistel, 1834 (a junior subjective synonym of *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829 and *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831);
 - (c) *Myteroxis* Gozis, 1886 (a junior objective synonym of *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831);
 - (d) *Ischnosomata* Strand, 1935 (a junior objective synonym of *Ischnosoma* Stephens, 1829);
 - (e) *Schinomosa* Tottenham, 1939 (a junior objective synonym of *Mycetoporus* Mannerheim, 1831).

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